



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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CHIEF DEPUTY

October 2, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich  
*[Signature]*  
FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *For*  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CASA EDITHA  
FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED - AVA-LYN'S GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Ava-Lyn's Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Casa Editha Foundation, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Ava-Lyn's Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys and girls ages 7-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Ava-Lyn's Group Home was providing services for four DCFS children and one privately placed child.

Ava-Lyn's Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and observations of children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Children are not developmentally able to participate in interviews; therefore, observation of

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children and supporting documentation were used to determine the appropriateness of program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to repair the counter top burners and maintain a sufficient supply of age-appropriate reading material.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:DC:CC:dl

### **Attachments**

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Edith Avanzado, Executive Director, Casa Editha Foundation, Incorporated  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Casa Editha Foundation, Incorporated  
Ava-Lyn's Group Home  
Pasadena, CA 91104  
License Number: 191222785  
Rate Classification Level: 10**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Ava-Lyn's Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, two burners of the countertop stove are not working.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, a DVD player and a computer with a variety of programs available. However, there is not a sufficient supply of age-appropriate reading material in the Group Home.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**1. Casa Editha Foundation management:**

- a. Repair the stove.**
- b. Maintain a sufficient supply of age-appropriate reading material.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

**Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Children are not able to participate in the interviews, as they are developmentally delayed and non-verbal.

Based on our observations, children appear to be informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children appear to feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children's interactions with staff appear appropriate and staff appear to treat the children with respect and dignity.

Children are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

The discipline policies appear to be consistently enforced and are fair with appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children appear satisfied with meals and snacks.

Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

**Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**AVA-LYN'S GROUP HOME**  
**1756 North Hill Avenue**  
**Pasadena, CA 91104**  
**(626) 794-3916**

July 23, 2007

**Group Home Audit Supervisor**  
**Department of Auditor-Controller**  
**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**  
**500 W. Temple St., Room 515-A**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Enclosed herewith is the corrective action plan.

Sincerely,

  
Edith C. Avanzado  
Executive Director

**AVA-LYN'S GROUP HOME**  
**1756 North Hill Avenue**  
**Pasadena, CA 91104**  
**(626) 794-3916**

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

**1. Casa Editha Foundation Management**

**a) Repair the stove.**

The facility has purchased a new range with a free-standing oven on July 19, 2007 and will be delivered on July 24, 2007 to replace the existing stove wherein the two burners are not working and the non-working oven. The facility is in the process of negotiating with a company to replace the existing kitchen countertop with a granite one. This will take approximately three weeks to complete but the stove will be installed upon delivery. The staff were given in-service by the Executive Director to log in any repairs needed to be done in the maintenance log book and report it immediately to the Administrator and Executive Director. The Executive Director will check the stove as soon as it is installed and will do a follow-up check weekly for one month and monthly thereafter to ensure that all burners and oven are working correctly. Assistant Executive Director will also check maintenance log weekly to ensure all repairs needed are done. Assistant Executive Director will be assigned to take care of all repairs needed.

**b) Sufficient supply of age-appropriate reading materials.**

Executive Director purchased several age-appropriate reading materials on June 26, 2007 for the use of all clients in the facility. Executive Director, together with the facility social worker, gave an in-service on how the clients use those materials since all the clients are non-verbal. Administrator was also asked to make an inventory of the materials and make request for more



materials if needed or replacements when they are destroyed. Administrator is assigned to check these materials weekly to ensure they are available to clients use and report to management if replacements are needed.